

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2194

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, PO

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. QUAI SOUTHERN EUROPE DIRECTOR GELADE READ TO EMBOFF AUGUST 13 TELEGRAM (PRESUMABLY FROM FRENCH EMBASSY ROME) CONCERNING PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO RUIVO. TELEGRAM IDENTIFIED RUIVO AS ARDENT PROPONENT OF SOCIALIST DOCTRINE, OF A BRAND CLOSE TO THAT OF MARIO SOARES. GELADE NOTED THAT THIS CHARACTERIZATION DIFFERS FROM NEWS REPORTS THAT RUIVO IS CLOSE TO COMMUNISM, AND THAT IT WAS OBTAINED FROM WELL-PLACED SOURCES IN FAO SECRETARIAT IN ROME.

2. THIS TELEGRAM SAID RUIVO HAD QUIT JOB AS DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES IN FAO DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL AT TIME OF SPINOLA'S ADVENT. EVEN WHILE IN ROME, HE HAD NOT BEEN AN EXILE FROM PORTUGAL DURING CAETANO REGIME; HE HAD VISITED LISBON PERIODICALLY, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT. TELEGRAM PRAISED RUIVO'S PERSONAL QUALITIES, WIDE-RANGE OF CONTACTS IN INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LINGUISTIC ABILITY IN

ENGLISH AND FRENCH. RUIVO, WHO IS MARRIED TO A
BIOLOGIST, STUDIED OCEANOGRAPHY IN SOUTHERN FRANCE
AND WORKED AT THE PRESTIGIOUS FRENCH NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BEFORE GOING TO FAO.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING ACCURACY OF
THIS GOF REPORT. FOR ONE THING, FRENCH ARE PARTIAL
TO THOSE WHO SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE WELL AND HAVE
ATTENDED THEIR UNIVERSITIES.
GAMMON

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